

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants once again note that acknowledgments of the receipt and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) filed on December 5, 2003 and July 12, 2004 have not been received. As an indication of consideration of the references cited in the IDSs, Applicants respectfully request initialed copies of both Form PTO-1449s that accompanied the IDSs.

As an additional preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request entry of this After-Final Amendment because no new issues are raised by the proposed amendment of Claim 1. More specifically, the subject matter of dependent Claim 49 has been added to associated independent Claim 1. Accordingly, when previously examining now-cancelled Claim 49, the Examiner examined the subject matter of amended Claim 1. Thus, since no new issues are raised by the proposed claim amendments, Applicants respectfully request entry of this After-Final Amendment.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12, 14 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,613,751 to Parker et al. Applicants have cancelled Claim 49, without prejudice, and have incorporated its subject matter into independent Claim 1, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to Claim 49. However, with respect to Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 12 and 14, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Parker et al. reference fails to disclose all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, the Parker et al. reference fails to disclose a lighting unit that includes, *inter alia*, a “truncated pyramid arranged between the light guide plate and the light source, said truncated pyramid having a base, a top smaller than the base, wherein said top is an outermost peripheral surface, and a slope extending between said base and said top, said light source being arranged in close contact with said top of the truncated pyramid, said light guide plate being arranged in close contact with said base of the truncated pyramid, so that light is propagated from a light emitting part of the light source to the light guide plate without passing through any air layer,” as defined in independent Claim 1.

In the present invention, one embodiment of which is shown in Applicants’ Figure 2, the light emitting surface of the light source 14 is placed in close contact with the light incident surface (top 16b) of the light guide plate 12. In contrast, in Figure 7 of the Parker et al. reference, light sources 3 are not in close contact with the top of a truncated pyramid, where the top is the “outermost peripheral surface,” but are instead each located within a five-sided polygon transition area 43.

In the January 24, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner asserted that:

The “top” portion of truncated pyramid or transition area 43 of Parker is not limited to just the outer dashed line through pyramid 43, but also beyond that outer dashed line that includes the enclosed light sources 3. This general “top” is apparent in illustrating lateral sides around light

sources 3 and back/front side where electrodes protrude, any of which adequately meet the claimed “outermost peripheral surface.”” See January 24, 2006 Office Action, page 7, line 22, through page 8, line 3.

Although Applicants agree that the lateral sides and the front/back side of the rectangular area surrounding light sources 3 are “outermost peripheral surfaces,” they are not surfaces that are part of a truncated pyramid. Instead, they are outermost peripheral surfaces of the rectangular area. Even assuming *arguendo* that transition area 43 can be considered as the “truncated pyramid,” the only two surfaces that can be considered as “outermost peripheral surfaces” are the two angled surfaces, because the other surfaces are interior surfaces. Accordingly, since light sources 3 are not “arranged in close contact” with an “outermost peripheral surface” of area 43 of the Parker et al. reference, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-10, 12, 14 and 49.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the Parker et al. reference does not satisfy independent Claim 1 because the light source is not located outside of the top of the truncated pyramid. In the present invention of Claim 1: (1) there is a truncated pyramid arranged between the light guide plate and the light source; (2) the truncated pyramid has a top, a base and a slope between the top and the base; and (3) the light source is in contact with the top of the truncated pyramid. Thus, the light source is located outside of the top.

In contrast, in Figure 7 of the Parker et al. reference, the rectangular part outside the dashed line adjacent area 43, which rectangular part the Examiner equates with the claimed “top,” does not satisfy Claim 1 because the light source 3 is not located outside of this “top,” but is instead within this rectangular part. One of the drawbacks of such a configuration is that if, during the manufacturing process, the top of the light source 3 happens to shift, even slightly, from the outer dashed line of Figure 7, defects in the light path may occur. For example, the light from the light source 3 may strike the rectangular part wastefully (whereby it grows darker) or the light may strike unexpected portions, such as the short sides of the rectangular part. On the other hand, in the present invention of Claim 1, the light source itself is fixed to be in contact with the top of the truncated pyramid, and therefore the light is easily transferred into the inside of the light guide plate with little loss. Accordingly, because the light source in the Parker et al. reference is not located outside of the top of the truncated pyramid, as defined in independent Claim 1, withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-10, 12, 14 and 49 is respectfully requested for this reason also.

Claims 4, 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Parker et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,164,789 to Unger et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 4, 6 and 14 all depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of dependent Claims 4, 6 and 14 under Parker et al. and Unger et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because the Unger et al. reference does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

Claims 11, 13, 14 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Parker et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,390,276 to Tai et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the features of dependent Claim 11 and independent Claim 13. More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Parker et al. or Tai et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a lighting unit that includes, *inter alia*, a light absorbing member that is located near the truncated pyramid and that “at least partially surrounds a portion of the truncated pyramid,” as defined in amended Claims 11 and 13.

One example of an embodiment of the present invention is shown in Applicants’ Figures 26 and 27 and includes light absorbing member 28. As can be seen in these figures, light absorbing member 28 “at least partially surrounds a portion of the truncated pyramid [16].”

As correctly acknowledged by the Examiner in the January 24, 2006 Office Action (page 5, lines 12-13), the Parker et al. reference does not disclose a light absorbing member at least partially surrounding a portion of the truncated pyramid. Accordingly, the

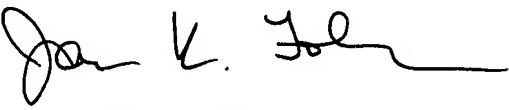
Examiner relied upon the Tai et al. reference for this feature. However, coating 72 of Figure 2A of the Tai et al. reference, which the Examiner equated with the claimed light absorbing member, does not surround a portion of a truncated pyramid. In fact, the Tai et al. device of Figures 1-2B lacks a truncated pyramid-shaped member. Further, assuming *arguendo* that fixture 66 of Figure 1 of Tai et al. could be considered as the claimed “truncated pyramid,” the feature at issue would still not be satisfied because coating 72 of Tai et al. does not “at least partially surround a portion” of fixture 66. In fact, as better shown in Figure 2A of Tai et al., coating 72 does not reach fixture 66. Instead of being on a truncated pyramid, coating 72 of Tai et al. is located on the flat top and bottom surfaces of light pipe 14, and stops before reaching fixture 66. Accordingly, assuming *arguendo* that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the device of Parker et al. in view of the Tai et al. reference, the coating would only be positioned on the planer top and bottom surfaces of panel member 41 of Parker et al., similar to that disclosed in Tai et al., and would not extend over transition area 43 of Parker et al. There is no disclosure or suggestion of placing the coating in any other location. Thus, as all of the features of Claims 11 and 13 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claims 11 and 13 and associated dependent Claim 14.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference

would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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